



City of Cincinnati

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Skywalk Demolition – Fifth Street Bridge, Fountain Square to Westin Hotel

WHAT/WHEN: Crews of King Wrecking Company began work **Thursday, September 1, 2005** on demolishing an existing portion of the skywalk over Fifth Street from Fountain Square to the Westin Hotel. **The company should finish in 30 days.** Traffic will be restricted during demolition hours. They anticipate removing the bridge steel in the evenings the week of September 12, with traffic interruptions possible.

After discussions with the Westin Hotel and U.S. Bank, the City determined that ongoing and escalating costs to maintain the bridge did not justify its link in the downtown pedestrian network. “All three parties involved agreed that pedestrians used the bridge more and more as an outdoor smoking lounge, and less and less as a link between the Skywalk system and Fountain Square,” said Eileen Enabnit, the City’s Director of Transportation and Engineering.

While the City will fund the demolition of the skywalk itself, U.S. Bank and the Westin Hotel will make interior improvements to the building. The Westin will fund restoration of the façade where the bridge is attached. The demolition is not part of the Fountain Square renovation project, but the City must complete it before that work begins.

WHERE: **Fifth Street, between Vine and Walnut Streets – Downtown Cincinnati**

The Department of Transportation and Engineering oversees the rehabilitation and improvement of streets in the City of Cincinnati. The Department also does transportation planning, design, engineering services, structural and geotechnical services, right of way regulation, and construction management. It is the clearinghouse for all City and regional transportation functions, and also serving as a liaison to the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority. Visit us at <http://www.cincinnati-oh.gov/transeng> for additional information and construction activity.